

Disabilities in the 21st Century." The conference will be convened on Guam from October 28–30, 1998.

It is momentous that this conference will be held in concert with "Disabilities Awareness Month" in the Pacific. Our own local network on Guam of rehabilitation professionals, educators, teachers, researchers and consumers acknowledge the people from our business communities employing persons with disabilities. On Guam on October 26, 1998, we are awarding those members of our own business community for their continued support by employing persons with disabilities. Mr. Rodney Priest, the Chairperson of the Guam Rehabilitation Advisory Council and a research associate with San Diego State University, was instrumental in organizing this event. The October 26 event maintains our commitment to our greatest resource, the people of Guam.

Hiring the disabled is an asset for us all. There are similar ceremonies acknowledging employers in the islands across the Pacific this month. Events will also be held in the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, the Republic of Palau and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

October is Disabilities Awareness Month. During this month, we commemorate individuals with disabilities and pay tribute to their contributions in our communities. None of the activities this month would have been possible without the successful collaboration between institutions of higher education, community service organizations, responsive government officials and supportive consumers from our villages. These recent cooperative efforts have been coordinated by San Diego State University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center of the Pacific, funded by the National Institute on disability Rehabilitation Research.

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center of the Pacific adopted a model for research that focuses on participation, action and local priorities. This unique approach resulted in the sponsorship of the Guam Rehabilitation Research Local Steering Committee led by people with disabilities who live in my district. Together with other similar committees led by persons with disabilities from the islands, these groups are improving our ability to address our systems of service and economic development which result in real jobs, careers and life-long learning impacting our communities today and in the future. This is an example of community leadership combined with university skills that can positively affect the lives of numerous individuals in the 21st century. It is a Pacific perspective that should be acknowledged and replicated.

Mr. Speaker, this message would be incomplete without mentioning other individuals and organizations contributing tremendously to assisting individuals with disabilities. I commend Dr. Fred McFarlane, Director of the Interwork Institute and the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center of the Pacific (RRTCP) and Dr. Kenneth Gelea'i, Co-Director and Research Coordinator of the RRTCP. I also commend the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), presided by Senator Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, for their commitment to individuals with disabilities, as evinced by their resolution passed by APIL's 17th General Assembly. I also congratulate Mr. Rodney Priest for his tireless efforts on behalf of Guam's disabled community.

## TRIBUTE TO GARY GRAY

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I rise before you today to honor Gary Gray, a constituent of mine from Adrian, Michigan whose accomplishments and accolades are many.

Mr. Gray is the recipient of the Lenawee County Chamber of Commerce 1998 Small Business Person of the Year Award. This distinguished honor is bestowed upon those individuals who have not only created and guided successful businesses but have made an even greater contribution through their selfless giving to those in their community.

Gary Gray, a nationally recognized physical therapist, grew up in the city of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Upon graduating from the University of Indiana in 1976, he began his professional career as Director of Physical Therapy at Bixby Hospital in Adrian, Michigan. He continues to enjoy Adrian as his home.

In 1986 Gary opened the doors of Gary Gray Physical Therapy Clinic, Inc. in Adrian with two employees. Nearly thirteen years later this thriving company has grown into three sites employing 35 employees.

Upon realizing the critical need this country has for continuing education in rehabilitation, he began Wynn Marketing, Inc. in 1988. Through the years, Wynn Marketing has produced 95 seminars throughout the nation, presenting innovative, practical and enlightening rehabilitation seminars to over 10,000 physical therapists, athletic trainers, orthopedic physicians and chiropractors. The closeness of his family life is revealed in the fact that his mother and father are the hosts and coordinators of these seminars.

Gary continues to be a consultant to various college and professional athletic teams around the country as well as educational institutions. He is the author of several published articles and manuals on rehabilitation and prevention. Recognized by various physical therapy schools around the nation, many of these are required reading in the physical therapy curriculum.

Recognized as a successful inventor of rehabilitation equipment, Gary opened the doors of Functional Designs in 1997. The purpose of this company is to develop and market many of Gary's inventions i.e. the Golf Gazebo, the Stretch Frame and the Pyramid Strider.

Gary Gray consistently supports community projects, especially those involving youth. He developed the "Hot Rock" boys basketball camp in 1989. This two week summer camp of basketball ministry combines the unique blend of both sport and Christ in the lives of the youth today. This past summer's Hot Rock was enjoyed by over 120 young boys and remains fully sponsored by Gary.

Realizing the need was also there for the young girls of the community, Gary developed "Girls of Summer" in 1995. Over 70 girls were ministered to this past summer, again combining the blend of basketball and Christ.

Beginning his 5th year as the assistant varsity basketball coach at Lenawee Christian High School is one of the positions Gary holds most dear. His love of Christ and family is prevalent to all who know him. His lovely wife of 22 years, Cindi, is also known as an excel-

lent speaker and leader in the community. He has two wonderful sons of whom he is very proud: Brad, a freshman at Cornerstone College and Doug, a junior at Lenawee Christian High School.

I want to commend Gary Gray for all of his achievements. He truly is deserving of the Lenawee Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Person of the Year Award.

## A TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH JERNIGAN, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 1998*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to improving opportunities for others. He is Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, who served as President of the National Federation of the Blind from 1968 to 1986 and as the Federation's President Emeritus until his death on October 12, 1998. In these capacities, Dr. Jernigan has become widely recognized and highly respected as the principal leader of the organized blind movement in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to represent Kenneth Jernigan and his wife, Mary Ellen, since coming to Congress in 1996. But more than being my constituent, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jernigan has been my friend. In fact, as he did with so many others over his lifetime of leadership, he encouraged me and helped me to believe in myself.

Born blind in 1926, Kenneth Jernigan grew up on a small Tennessee farm with little hope and little opportunity. But in the story of Kenneth Jernigan, from his humble beginnings in the hills of Tennessee to his stature as a national—and even an international—leader, the story of what is right with America is told.

Dr. Jernigan may have been blind in the physical sense, but he was a man of vision nonetheless. As a leader of the National Federation of the Blind, he taught all of us to understand that eyesight and insight are not related to each other in any way. Although he did not have eyesight, his insight on life, learning, and leading has no equal.

Mr. Speaker, for those who knew him and loved him, for the blind of this country, and for the National Federation of the Blind—the organization that he loved and built—the world without Kenneth Jernigan will be different. But the world he left in death is a far better world because of his life.

The legacy which Dr. Jernigan has left behind is visible in the hundreds of thousands of lives that he touched and will continue to inspire through the programs and projects that will live on in his name. This will be the case for many generations to come.

Kenneth Jernigan will be missed deeply by his family and friends, and his loss will be shared by all of us because he cared for all of us. With the strength of his voice and the power of his intellect, he brought equality and freedom to the blind. As he did so, Kenneth Jernigan taught us all to love one another and live with dignity. This is the real and lasting legacy of Kenneth Jernigan.